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WILL ELLARDY

Executive Registry

14 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
 Deputy Director (Support)
 Special Assistant to the Director
 for Planning and Development

DATE: 5/3/61

REF: LTR 07150

SUBJECT: Planning Proposal for Reporting System

1. Over the past year I have become increasingly interested in the separate initiatives being taken by all CIA offices in the direction of speedier communications and reporting. I refer to [redacted] thinking (ex CRITIC) about moving routine information to Washington analysts in twenty-four hours, to the development of rapid communications devices by the Office of Communications, and to the testing of the Teletape scheme in the clandestine Services. I think it has become apparent that these and similar ideas are not individually independent projects which can be separately implemented, but rather with proper planning could become part of a mechanically integrated communicating and reporting system with a highly promising potential of improved, speedy intelligence transmission. I am aware also that the Services are moving ahead in this direction and have contracts and studies underway with industry to bring this about within a short number of years.

2. I would like to propose, therefore, that we establish an Agency Planning Group for a mechanically integrated intelligence system which would include qualified representatives of those components whose contribution is essential. Without wishing to limit membership, it would include, I would assume, [redacted] for the DDI, and representatives of OCR and OCI. The DDS would probably wish to be represented by a planning officer and by members of the Office of Communications, the Office of Security, and the Management Staff. The DDP would be represented by the Assistant Executive Officer, [redacted], and the Deputy Chief of the Requirements Staff, [redacted].

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3. In the light of his recent staff work on the Teletape system, I would propose that [] Special Assistant to the DDS, become the Secretary of the group. In view of the long-range planning and technical aspects of the work to be done, the SA/PD/DCI may wish to consider chairing the group.

4. We envisage that it should be the responsibility of the planning group to come up in six months or less with a consistent planning statement for an integrated reporting and communications system, looking two to five years ahead, and taking full advantage of current technology. Method and timing of implementation would obviously be one of the chapters of such a statement. In arriving at its conclusions, the group should be governed by concern for Agency interest more than by present divisions of labor.

5. I would appreciate your reactions to this proposal.

(Signed)

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Acting Deputy Director (Plans)

cc: DDCI ✓
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